

STATEWIDE AAR
DECEMBER 2010 STATEWIDE STORMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On December 17, 2010, a series of severe rainstorms began to sweep across California, bringing high winds and significant amounts of precipitation. These severe storms caused harm to people and property, flooded homes and infrastructure, damaged public and private facilities, closed roads and highways, required emergency response and debris removal. Damage threats continued with flooding in urban areas and small streams, rock slides and debris flows from recent wildfire areas, damage to flood control systems, slope failure, and erosion. In coastal regions, harbor damage occurred. Flood conditions caused by these continuous storms necessitated the evacuation of residents and the opening of emergency shelters. These winter storms, by their sheer magnitude, created resource challenges for services, personnel, equipment and facilities across the state. The emergency response was strongly supported by the combined forces of mutual aid across the regions.

Acting Governor Maldonado requested a federal declaration of a major disaster for the Counties of Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Tulare. A Presidential Declaration (DR 1952) was granted. The declaration was based on the following facts:

- At the peak of the event more than 2,200 structures were damaged.
- Personnel from across the counties responded with approximately 700 first responders from Fire, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Management.
- Approximately 100 equipment resource requests were filled to support Fire and Law Enforcement emergency response needs.
- There were levee breaks, major road closures, and beach closures due to mud flows, debris flows, sewage spills, and other chemical hazards.
- There were localized power outages throughout the impacted counties.
- The total Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for state and local response and recovery costs was \$80,000,000.

Statistical Summary

- Two Injuries
- 10 structures were destroyed
- Over 2,200 structures were damaged
- More than 120 people were evacuated
- Approximately 44 people were sheltered
- The total PDA for state and local response and recovery costs was \$80,000,000

Incident Period

December 17, 2010 through January 4, 2011.

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Summary of Key Findings

This report has identified several areas in need of improvement and recommended corrective actions. The following summarizes the key findings of this report:

- Improve understanding of the FEMA reimbursement process.
- Develop Flood Fight handbooks in Spanish.
- Improve the understanding of the Initial Damage Estimate (IDE) and PDA process.
- Continue development of WebEOC to accommodate multiple levels of activation. Information sharing can be improved by the creation of a WebEOC Users group to determine the electronic communication needs of the county, region and state entities.
- Refresher training is needed for staff working in the Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).

Organizations Contributing to this Report

State Agencies and Departments

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
California Highway Patrol (CHP)
Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA)
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Local Government/Operational Areas

Inyo County
Kings County
Mariposa County
Modoc County
Orange County
San Diego County
San Luis Obispo County
Tulare County